



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - August 13, 2003

- ***In the West***, showers associated with the summer rainy season are providing localized relief from long-term drought and a summer-long heat wave. Weather conditions favor ***Northwestern*** small grain harvesting but continue to strain drought-reduced irrigation reserves across the ***Southwest*** and ***Intermountain West***.
- ***On the Plains***, favorably cooler weather prevails across ***central and southern portions of the region***, although soil moisture shortages continue to stress pastures and summer crops. Meanwhile on the ***northern High Plains***, persistently hot, mostly dry weather favors spring wheat harvesting but is causing further deterioration of pastures and depletion of soil moisture.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, a drying trend and warmer conditions are reducing soil moisture reserves for reproductive to filling summer crops, particularly across ***northern and western portions of the region***. Although the most serious dryness persists in an area centered on ***northwestern Missouri***, little rain has fallen since early to mid-July across the ***upper Mississippi Valley***.
- ***In the South***, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms are maintaining wet conditions in the ***central Gulf Coast States*** but easing the effects of recent heat and dryness across the ***western Gulf Coast region***. A few showers linger across ***Florida***, where local flooding continues in the wake of recent heavy rainfall.

Outlook: A changing weather pattern will lead to drier, warmer weather in the ***East***. Widespread showers with locally heavy rain will extend from the ***Gulf Coast States*** west into the ***Rio Grande Valley***. Heavy rain will return to the ***Florida peninsula*** tonight as a tropical wave moves into the ***Gulf of Mexico***. Meanwhile, above-normal temperatures will expand from the ***northern Rockies*** eastward into the ***Great Lakes and Corn Belt***. Elsewhere, monsoon showers will likely intensify over the ***southern Rockies***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 18-22 features above-normal precipitation in the ***upper Midwest, Delta, and along the Gulf Coast***, while drier-than-normal conditions should occur in ***the mid-Atlantic and western half of the Nation***. Near- to above-normal temperatures are forecast ***across most of the Nation***, with subnormal readings limited to the ***eastern half of the Gulf Coast***.

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